



## Tippecanoe County GIS Policy Committee Meeting June 20th, 2006

The GIS Policy Committee members met June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in the Tippecanoe Room of the Tippecanoe County Office Building. Steve Murray called the meeting to order.

### Committee Members Present

Highway Director Opal Kuhl, GIS Administrator Khalid Hasan, Executive Director of MITS Diane Hawkins, APC Director Sallie Fahey, County Commissioner KD Benson, Gini Tull from the Auditor's office, Cinde Shockey recording secretary.

### AGENDA

1. Color Infra Red Images demo.
  2. Topography and Contour Updates ?
  3. Electronic Data Products and Services Ordinance:  
Need for revision ?
  4. GIS Vision
  5. Others
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#### 1. Color Infra Red Images demo

Steve addresses the Committee and says we have received some of the Infra-Red images from the fly-over. Khalid is going to show a sampling while Steve Murray and Zach Beasley offer input. These images were included with the 2005 Ortho project. The infra-red captures objects on the ground differently than a photograph. The infra-red can be used for vegetation analysis or land cover classification. The main uses for the Surveyor's office would be tile location and drainage. Steve says that IDEM was originally one of the big proponents for the infra-red because they wanted to use it to identify wet tile or potential wet tiles. Steve says that there is software that can be used, some of it free, to interpret the color of the images and delineate specific things that you may be looking for. Zach Beasley explains that they use a scanner which projects light to the ground and as it bounces back it creates a representation of the objects below. Different surfaces reflect the light differently and then these areas are colored to reflect the different surfaces. Someone asks if the red color means that this area is hotter. Zach says using software you can

change the colors to anything you want. Red does not mean warmer it is merely representative of a specific surface type. Sallie says the red appears to be grass. Black is water. There are many variations of color. Wetter soils will appear different from dry ones. KD would like to know if we just have this one section. Khalid states that we have the whole county in infra-red. KD would like to know if anyone in the general public would have an interest in the data. Steve and Diane both agree that farmers would find it very useful. Steve says that the data that he has looked at is the Northeast part of the county and it appears to be showing the surface patterns well, but not the tiles. Steve thinks we may have to manipulate the data a little better using software. Khalid says that we need to find out exactly when the images were taken and what the moisture content was at that time. Steve says that most of the people he has spoken to have told him the moisture content in the soil is an important factor in locating the tiles. Steve asks if we are ready to move to item two on the agenda

## **2. Topography and Contour Updates ?**

Steve says that Zach Beasley contacted IGIC last week to find out if anyone else in the state was possibly looking at using the new orthos and generating updated contours and Jill gave Zach contact information for a few companies. The Surveyors office intends to follow up and investigate the specifics about cost etc. Khalid says we have the raw 2002 elevation data and that is what they use to correct the orthos images. It might be a little more work to extract 2 feet contours out of that data so one possibility is to compare the new raw data to the 2002 raw data and see where the areas of change are then contours could be extracted and stitched back to the 2002 data. Khalid says that up on the screen is the raw elevation data. There are two kinds of deliverables with this data. One is the bare surface using software to remove the trees and structure through an automated process. Khalid shows an example of how the data will appear with the structures and trees removed. Steve would like to know if the spot elevations appear as they do on the current images. Khalid says that spot elevations can be generated out of this data every 5 feet or however we want. These are hard-coded. The biggest advantage is that it represents the elevations. KD asks if a specific color i.e. light blue always represents (x) feet in elevation. Khalid says that yes these are to represent different elevation ranges. Steve says they will continue to investigate the cost of updating the contours and getting approval to have them generated.

## **3. Electronic Data Products and Services Ordinance:**

Steve asks if Diane and Khalid would like to cover the next item on the agenda . Khalid says that this data is available for free now from the State or the IU website. KD would like to know if it is the same data that is posted on different places. Steve says that the orthos and the color infra-reds are the same. Khalid asks the committee if we would still like to provide the data for a fee or send them to the state to get the data for free. Khalid wonders if they will come to us for the data if they can get it for free. He did however have a recent request from someone who was unable to manipulate the USDA data from the web and they asked if the GIS department could download it and convert it to a format they could read. This is a specialist or consulting service that was requested from one of the local surveyors. Khalid would like the committee to recommend how they should handle these requests. Should we only give away the data we own exclusively or should we still handle other requests for data? How much time do we want our GIS specialists to spend on data requests? Diane discusses the current data request ordinance. She says it was approved in November or December of 2005. The 2005 orthos were added as an option and at that time it was decided to charge \$1 per tile for the color images. It was also decided to review the rates after the color images were received to see if the rates were still appropriate. Diane says it is up to the board whether we want to continue to sell color images or refer people to the IU site but, our color toner consumption has increased dramatically because of the color images. Diane thinks we want to look at the pricing for our plot size and adjust the price. KD would like to know if Diane is referring to paper copies or CD's , DVD's also. Khalid says the paper copies cost more because of the paper and toner but, if someone wanted buy all of the color images it would require 48 DVD's. Khalid addresses the board and says the issue he wants to clarify is what types of data we wish to provide. Do we want to provide paper copies and hard copies? We also need to look at what types of services we wish to provide. Do we want to provide specialist analysis services, conversion services or plotting services? KD would like to know if there are other places where people can get the data. Diane says she believes most people come to us because we have the data. Sallies wants to know if it's possible for someone to buy the data and create a business to sell the data and Diane replies that yes, this is possible has been done. Khalid says that the request he received recently they wanted him to download the data and put it into a dwg format for them because they had tried to do it and couldn't. Steve thinks we need to provide a certain level of skills to the general public who don't have the equipment or skills to retrieve the data they need. Steve says it would be nice to see a list of the type of person who is requesting the data. Diane says we can give the committee the last five years of data requests. Steve says he doesn't require 5 years of data just the last few. Diane says most of the requests are primarily plots. KD says she doesn't want to lose money on

the plots. Diane says this is primarily why she wanted to look at the costs. Steve asks about another large data request that we had recently from Purdue. Purdue Facilities (Keith Moore) asked for the data that we received from the state. Diane said they could have downloaded it from the state but since we had the DVD's we just made copies for them. Steve doesn't feel we need to accommodate those types of requests. Diane said she has always had the stance that we should accommodate not-for-profits like Purdue. Steve says he feels differently about this since Purdue has the capability to download the data for themselves. Opal comments that she doesn't think so either when you compare their budget to ours. Sallie has a question about our orthos. She would like to know how everyone can get the images for free. She says that we basically subsidized everyone getting the upgrades for free. She has a hard time with the state giving away the upgrades for free. Giving away the standard deliverables isn't an issue because the state basically paid for those. Sallie thinks we should charge for and provide any of the data we have paid for but, not data that belongs to someone else and can be accessed for free. KD says it was basically all funded with tax dollars. Diane says the project was partially funded with grant money and partially with EDIT money. KD says she doesn't have a problem with it. Steve says he doesn't either because we received a lot of things for free and it far outweighs what we would have had to pay for going from 12inch to 6inch. Steve says this is the first statewide fly that has ever been done. Sallie says that if it's not a problem with anyone about the orthos she still thinks that generally speaking if it's not our data we shouldn't provide it. For example Sallie says people will ask for building permit data and she refers them to building permits. Her department is a user of the data just like they are and they should go to the source. KD says most people want to use the expertise of the GIS department and it is not duplicated in the community. Steve says he doesn't think we should be burning 48 DVD's for Purdue. Diane says we didn't do it that way and it really wasn't a big deal. KD says we need to weigh the value of building a good relationship and sharing information and expertise. KD says this may make the difference as to whether they help us with an issue or stand back. KD feels you have to weigh the political factor. Steve agrees but he also says that when the GIS staff has to spend a lot of time running paper and digital copies it takes time away from other things they can be working on for the county. Steve says he believes this is one of Khalid's main concerns and one of his concerns also. Steve would like to look at a breakdown of the different types of data and develop a policy about what types of services we want to provide. He does believe we still need to provide services for the average person that walks in wants a plot of their property. He also thinks we need to make sure we are recovering our costs on these requests. Steve says that as soon as we have the data collected to let him know and he will meet with Diane, Khalid, and Zach to discuss the options.

KD asks Jennifer Weston if there is a state law that regulates what we can charge for this type of data. Diane says public access. Steve says you can recover your costs. KD says unless it's enhanced. Sallie asks a question about copy charges. She says our copy fees are so ridiculously low compared to other places. Someone comes in and gets a copy of a map and then they return and want 100 copies which they are going to use as a remonstrator in a public hearing against some case. Now they want 100 copies which they get for a fraction of the cost of going somewhere else. Steve doesn't think we are required to do that. Opal agrees because you have given them the data. Steve says that he would send them to a copy shop. Khalid says that when people request data from the GIS department and they want 6 copies we only charge them the initial cost and then the remaining copies we charge only for the paper and the ink. Steve says we need to look at that. Diane said we need to just make sure that we are covering our costs for the plotter, paper, and ink.

#### **4. GIS Vision**

Steve addresses the committee and requests that since it is budget time, he would like for everyone look at their GIS needs for the future. He says we can't expect the GIS dept to constantly meet our needs whether it be staffing or projects. He also says that we have discussed revising our GIS VISION plan. We continue to mark things off of that plan and he would like for the committee to keep returning to that original plan and revising it.

#### **5. Zoning Update**

Sallie addresses the committee with a zoning layer update. There is a draft zoning later for the entire county. It is not for outside use and it shouldn't be official for internal use yet either. Sallie says they are working through issues of color because you cannot see the aeriels underneath the color. Sallie says that most of the staff would like to get a parcel report when you click on the property. Right now you can only get a parcel report from the search function so you have to go back to the search function to get it. Diane says that it is possible. Sallie wants the parcel report to appear when you select the information box about a property. Sallie says they would like to be able to get the legal description and ultimately have the zoning added. Diane says that when the new tax software is installed it would be relatively easy to pull all of this information in at once. It will 12-18 months before this is possible. Diane's ideal vision is to have a viewer tailored to each department with the information that is pertinent to them. Sallie would like to be able to retrieve the parcel information, the key number, the school district, the

subdivision, the zoning, a history of building permits, a history of zoning etc. Diane says we can do some of that right now. The public wants to see the current tax and outstanding tax on a property. Diane says it is all in the data and where you point your fields in the databases. Diane says the main problem is that the databases are proprietary and don't work well with 2006 tools. Sallie isn't really interested in the tax data. Steve says that every department has different concerns and requests for data. He also says that GIS vision should address those requests and try to focus on improving the data. Steve says that APC was the poster child last year and that Highway has made great improvements. Building permits is the next step. Steve says that he and Diane have discussed going to digital submissions on everything including archiving but we do not need 12 different methods of doing that. Khalid says the best way to accomplish this goal is for the individual players on the team to focus on their own data and making it accessible to other departments.

## 6. Others

Sallie would like to show an example of some of the things that have been discussed this morning. She asks Khalid to locate her property on the GIS site. Sallie demonstrates the problems they are having viewing the aerial photos under the color. She also says you cannot tell if the property boundary and the zoning layer are co-terminus. Khalid says we have more than 100 layers here and it is almost impossible to set all the layers up so that we can cater to each possible combination of how things will display. Khalid says they can improve it to a certain extent to help make the distinctions. Sallie asks if some of the things a technical committee could look at is whether color can be opaque and also, parcel line color and zoning line color. Sallie asks if the parcel lines have been addressed since they were originally done. They were fine on the black and white but on the color aerials she doesn't think they are the best. KD and Sallie agree that they don't care what color the lines are as long as they are distinguishable. Khalid says this is a struggle all the time because as soon as you change it for one thing it makes it not so good for other layers. KD has a couple of questions. She would like to know if we still have the secure site. Khalid shows her the new link from the county Intranet site. KD says if you don't go to the site through the Intranet you receive an error about an HTML object failing to load. She also would like to know if he Khalid has cut off the resolution to speed up the web site. Khalid says yes he has. They sacrificed this to speed it up. Steve asks if anyone has anything else and adjourns the meeting when there is no response